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The only way to avoid these is to destroy the system of competitive armaments.

The causes of the present European flurry are not altogether clear; but the chief factor seems to be the sudden and unexpected success of the Balkan allies in crushing Turkey. This has brought the Slav States of southeastern Europe, which are closely connected with Russia, into sudden military prominence, and Germany, whose ambitions in regard to that territory are well known, has taken alarm and decided immediately to increase her great army, and is considering the building of additional fortifications on her eastern boundary next to Russia. Her military program, adopted a number of years ago, runs out this year. She has decided, therefore, to enter upon a new program of army enlargement which will add an additional cost of \$250,000,000 the first year, and thereafter at least \$50,000,000 annually. Her standing army will be increased from something over 600,000 men to over 800,000. France has at once responded by deciding to add nearly 200,000 men to her standing army, with a like increase in the budget, and by increasing the period of enlistment of her soldiers from two to three years. Russia, of course, takes a similar step, and has decided to add three army corps to her military force, and the Austro-Hungarian government follows. The effect on England has been almost instantaneous. The movement for universal military service is being pushed forward with all possible energy. The naval program for the coming year, as introduced by the government on March 13, provides for five battleships, as against four last year, and a corresponding number of cruisers, destroyers, etc. The total budget amounts to £46,309,300 (in round numbers about \$230,000,000). This is the greatest navy budget ever laid out by the British government in time of peace. The increase over last year is about fourteen and one-half millions of dollars. New schemes of taxation are being devised in the different countries by which the huge sums for the army and the navy may be raised.

It is difficult to comprehend how the statesmen who control the destinies of these great powers can, with apparent coolness, undertake another step of this kind in the mad rivalry which has long been going on among the European powers. It seems as if the lowest dictates of common sense would have caused them to seize the occasion for holding a European conference with a view to resisting the growth of their armaments rather than to heap further burdens upon their peoples.

The only hopeful factor in the entire situation is the prompt and energetic protests which are being made against this new building program. The Free Church Council of Great Britain, representing all the Protestant bodies of England outside of the National Church, in its recent meeting at Newcastle, adopted unanimously a resolution protesting against the program of conscription "which would harness the nation irrevocably to the forces that would send it rattling back into barbarism." The action of the council is supported by all the peace forces in England.

In France a stormy scene occurred in the Chamber of Deputies on the afternoon of March 6, when the bill for reintroducing the three-year military service instead of two was brought forward. The Socialist party, seconded by some forty Radicals, declared that the new budget "was insanity." The uproar became so great that it was impossible for the president of the chamber to restore order. The War Minister endeavored in vain for some time to read the text of the bill, and when he left the tribune the opponents of the bill hurled violent language at him. The opposition to this new measure is sure to develop rapidly in all the countries, and it may well be asked whether the system of competitive armaments, which does not hesitate to suck the very life-blood out of the nation, is not entering rapidly upon its last stage. The friends of peace in Europe, and in all other countries, ought promptly to seize the occasion for declaring anew their unalterable opposition to the whole system of "armed peace" and the motives and policies out of which the great armaments spring.

The St. Louis Peace Congress.

The Fourth American Peace Congress, to be held in St. Louis May 1, 2, 3, and 4, and already referred to several times in our columns, promises to be a most significant gathering. If for no other reason than that it is wholly under the direction of the Business Men's League of that city, the unique significance of the congress is assured. No other American peace congress has had such an initial backing, and no other has aroused an interest among chambers of commerce and kindred organizations equal to that already awakened by this. Furthermore, nearly all of the governments of the western hemisphere are to be represented, Congressman Bartholdt, president of the Congress, having personally invited the official representatives of the twenty other American republics, practically all of whom have agreed to attend. A number of Canadian delegates are also sure to be present. While President Wilson has not yet fully decided as to himself, it is assured that either he or Secretary Bryan will be there. Mr. Carnegie has definitely promised that he will deliver an address. Our clipping bureau convinces us that it is probably true that none of the other American peace congresses has had the early publicity which this is receiving.

THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE has always watched with great interest the new workers for international peace invariably brought forth by these gatherings. They have already begun to appear as a result of the effort in St. Louis. Frederick W. Lehmann, best known as United States Solicitor General under the Taft administration, is the chairman of the Committee on International Law. Associated with him is the Hon. Frederick M. Judson, one of the arbiters in the recent celebrated railroad case. A. Ross Hill, president of the University of Missouri, is chairman of the Education

Committee. James E. Smith, chairman of the Executive Committee, and W. B. Stevens, executive secretary of the congress, are both new and promising men in our work. Many of the delegates being appointed by the various governors, boards of trade, and other organizations are fresh and promising adherents to the cause.

If Professor Hudson, chairman of the Program Committee, carries out his present plan, the program in general outline will consist of general meetings throughout the forenoons and evenings. Wednesday, April 30, as has been previously noted, is the day of the Jefferson Memorial dedication, with ten Senators, fifteen Congressmen, many governors, and other distinguished persons in attendance. The congress proper opens Thursday morning, May 1. Thursday afternoon will be devoted to sectional meetings and round-table conferences. Friday afternoon will be given over to sight-seeing and a garden party at the famous Shaw Gardens. The annual meeting of the American Peace Society will be held Saturday afternoon, May 3; the banquet of the congress to be held in the evening of the same day. Sunday, May 4, the churches will offer sermons, addresses, and other exercises appropriate to the closing of such a gathering.

The significance of this congress cannot well be overestimated. It is to be held in a city most strategically located for the crystallization of peace sentiment, especially throughout the great Middle West. The Missouri Peace Society will add greatly to its membership and influence. The peace societies of Nebraska and Kansas will be strengthened. New peace societies will be organized, and the essential work of education will be greatly extended in other sections. The important new peace societies of our country have been largely the outgrowth of such peace congresses. The change in public opinion, away from indifference or hostility to the movement for international peace, has been greatly helped by these congresses. The growth of a friendlier feeling toward the peace societies on the part of the newspapers is attributable in no small degree to these same peace congresses. The Fourth American Peace Congress, we repeat, promises to be of unusual importance and significance. The attendance of friends of the cause from all parts of the nation ought to be large.

One result of Norman Angell's work in Great Britain has been the organization at Cambridge of "The Cambridge University War and Peace Society," the purpose of which is to investigate the economic facts to which he has called attention. Similar societies have already been created in one or two German universities, and a German committee is offering prizes and scholarships with the same object in view. The hope is expressed that chairs of international statecraft may be founded before long in some of the German universities.

The Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society.

Official notice is hereby given that the Eighty-fifth Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society will be held in the Odeon, St. Louis, Saturday afternoon, May 3. The hall and hour of meeting will be announced at the Peace Congress.

Besides the transaction of the usual business—the presentation of the reports of the directors and treasurer, the election of officers, board of directors, etc.—a program of exercises is being arranged which will include addresses by two or three distinguished speakers and a discussion by the members of questions connected with the organization and propaganda work of the society and its constituent branches. All members of the society and its constituent branches have the right to attend and participate in the proceedings. It is hoped that the Peace Congress, which opens on the first of May, will bring large numbers of members of the Society to St. Louis and that the annual meeting, therefore, will be unusually well attended. It is a most important epoch in the history of the peace movement, and the members of the society are urged to make a special effort this year to be present at the annual meeting.

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD, *Secretary.*

Editorial Notes.

Eighteenth of May.

Extensive preparations are being made again this year for the observance of the 18th of May as Peace Day in the schools. As the day falls on Sunday, the school exercises will mostly take place on Monday; in some instances, probably on the preceding Friday. The American School Peace League (405 Marlborough street, Boston) is especially promoting the observance of the day, but the peace societies—the Intercollegiate Peace Association, the Peace Department of the National W. C. T. U., the Arbitration and Peace Committee of the National Council of Women, the Arbitration and Peace Commission of the Federal Council of the Churches, etc.—are also devoting unusual attention to the anniversary this year. As the 18th of May falls on Sunday, special effort is being made to have the ministers of all denominations devote a part, at least, of the day to the consideration of this most commanding movement, and we are assured that an unusually large number of them will do so. The National Bureau of Education (Hon. P. P. Claxton, commissioner), which published and distributed a Peace Day bulletin last year containing material for preparation of programs for the day, is repeating the bulletin again this spring. Copies of it may be had by addressing the Bureau of Education at